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Cheshire chief constable faces IPCC investigation

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The chief constable of Cheshire Constabulary has been referred to the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) after a request from the police and crime commissioner (PCC) for Greater Manchester.

David Whatton could face an IPCC examination stemming from his time as deputy chief constable of Greater Manchester Police (GMP), where he was involved in allowing a controversial contract awarded to a member of police staff, who received a £117,000 pay-off when she left the force in 2011.

An internal investigation by the now-defunct Greater Manchester Police Authority found no evidence of criminal wrongdoing by Mr Whatton or any other member of GMP staff in granting Cathy Butterworth a contract which was not within force guidelines. However, Greater Manchester PCC Tony Lloyd has sought to verify the investigation with independent scrutiny, and requested for Cheshire PCC John Dwyer to refer his chief constable to the IPCC

Mr Lloyd said: "It's important to stress that there has been no evidence of criminality uncovered, but by asking the IPCC to perform a review it gives me and, more importantly, the general public confidence that this matter has been independently scrutinised.

"I don't agree with issuing special contracts. I've discussed this with the chief constable and we have agreed that GMP contracts should be in line with the nationally-agreed frameworks. If there are exceptional circumstances where a non-standard employment contract might be appropriate, the chief constable has also agreed that it wouldn't be issued without my approval."

GMP declined to comment on the referral of Mr Whatton, who moved to Cheshire in December 2008.

Mr Dwyer confirmed he made the referral on behalf of Mr Lloyd, adding: "I am giving Dave Whatton my full support in this matter and until we hear back from the IPCC.

"It is business as usual and the relationship between Dave and I remains as one of trust and co-operation."

An IPCC spokesperson said it had received Mr Dwyer's referral and is "undertaking an assessment of the referral and seeking further information" to determine if an investigation is required.

By [Liam Barnes](#)

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